Amendment to the claims:

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method for isolating DNA from a biological sample comprising animal cells comprising the following sequential steps:

(a) separating the cells comprising DNA from the remainder of the biological sample;

(b) contacting the separated cells comprising DNA of step (a) with a hypertonic, high salt reagent having a concentration of salt therein so as to form a suspension of said biological cells;

(c) contacting the suspension of step (b) with a lysis reagent so as to lyse the biological material containing DNA to form a lysate comprising DNA and non-DNA biological components of the biological material, wherein the hypertonic, high salt reagent in step (b) comprises salt in an amount effective to precipitate proteins out of the lysate; and

(d) separating the DNA from the non-DNA biological components of the lysate of step (c) to yield isolated DNA.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of animal tissue, cultured animal cells, blood cells, and body fluids.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the biological sample is a bone marrow sample.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the biological sample is whole blood.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, where the non-DNA biological component is selected from the group consisting of proteins, lipids, RNA, and carbohydrates.

29 (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of soluble sodium, ammonium, or potassium salts.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the concentration of the salt is greater than 1 M.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the concentration of the salt is greater than 2 M.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the lysis reagent comprises a detergent.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the lysis reagent comprises an anionic detergent.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the anionic detergent is chosen from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, and lithium salts of dodecyl sulfate.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the concentration of the anionic detergent is greater than 0.1 % w/v based on the volume of the lysis reagent.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the lysis reagent further contains an RNase solution.

39. (Cancelled).

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of separating the DNA from the lysate further comprises physically precipitating non-DNA biological components from the lysate without the use of any additional reagents, to yield a non-DNA

precipitate, and a solution containing DNA.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of separating the DNA from the lysate further comprises centrifuging the lysate.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising contacting said solution containing DNA with an alcohol to yield a precipitate comprising isolated DNA.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 further comprising contacting the isolated DNA with a wash solution.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the isolated DNA is treated with a hydration reagent.

45. (Previously Presented) A method for isolating DNA from a biological sample comprising red blood cells and white blood cells comprising the following sequential steps:

(a) contacting the biological sample with a red blood lysis reagent to lyse the red blood cells;

(b) separating the white blood cells from the lysed red blood cells;

(c) contacting the white blood cells with a hypertonic, high-salt reagent having a concentration of salt therein to suspend the white blood cells in a solution of said hypertonic, high-salt reagent;

(d) subsequently contacting the white blood cells of step (c) with a lysis reagent so as to lyse the biological material containing DNA to form a lysate containing DNA and non-DNA cellular material, wherein the hypertonic, high salt reagent in step (c) comprises salt in an amount effective to precipitate proteins out of the lysate; and

(e) separating the DNA from non-DNA cellular material of the lysate to yield isolated DNA.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood cells and body fluids.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the biological sample is a bone marrow sample.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the biological sample is whole blood.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, where the non-DNA biological component is selected from the group consisting of proteins, lipids, RNA, and carbohydrates.

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Cancelled).

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of soluble sodium, ammonium, or potassium salts.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the concentration of the salt is greater than 1 M.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the concentration of the salt is greater than 2 M.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the lysis reagent comprises a detergent.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the lysis reagent comprises an anionic detergent.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the anionic detergent is chosen from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, and lithium salts of dodecyl sulfate.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the concentration of the anionic detergent is greater than 0.1 % w/v based on the volume of the lysis reagent.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the lysis reagent further contains an RNase solution.

60. (Cancelled).

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the step of separating the DNA from the lysate further comprises physically precipitating non-DNA biological components from the lysate without the use of any additional reagents, to yield a non-DNA precipitate, and a solution containing DNA.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the step of separating the DNA from the lysate further comprises centrifuging the lysate.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising contacting said solution containing DNA with an alcohol to yield a precipitate comprising isolated DNA.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63 further comprising contacting the isolated DNA with a wash solution.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the isolated DNA is treated with a hydration reagent.

66-70. (Cancelled)

71. (New) A method for isolating DNA from a biological sample comprising microbial cells comprising the following sequential steps:

(a) separating the cells comprising DNA from the remainder of the biological sample;

(b) contacting the separated cells comprising DNA of step (a) with a hypertonic, high salt reagent having a concentration of salt therein so as to form a suspension of said biological cells;

(c) contacting the suspension of step (b) with a lysis reagent so as to lyse the biological material containing DNA to form a lysate comprising DNA and non-DNA biological components of the biological material, wherein the hypertonic, high salt reagent in step (b) comprises salt in an amount effective to precipitate proteins out of the lysate; and

(d) separating the DNA from the non-DNA biological components of the lysate of step (c) to yield isolated DNA.

72. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein said microbial cells are bacterial cells.